

June 11, 2019

Mr. Russ Kick 411A Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: FOIA Case No. 2019-FPRO-00810

Dear Mr. Kick:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 15, 2019, in which you seek access to Postal Service records. In particular, you requested the Postal Service's FOIA log covering 2018, which includes a field showing the subject of each request and a field for the final disposition.

Our office identified 73 pages of record material responsive to your request. Enclosed are copies of the 73 pages that can be released to you in their entirety.

The FOIA log contains information about FOIA requests received by the Postal Service in the months of January 2018 through December 2018. The FOIA log details include the following: the FOIA tracking number; received and closed dates; request description; and final disposition. Please note that in some cases, the closed date and final disposition are not included given that these requests are still being processed.

Additionally, first-party requests submitted by or on behalf of an individual seeking his or her own records are not included in the FOIA log. We consider this type of information to be exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6.

FOIA Exemption 6 permits agencies to withhold "personnel and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Any records, which contain information concerning particular individuals, may qualify for the exemption's protection. Therefore, records that relate to first-party requests are "files" within the meaning of the exemption.

In determining whether to release records that may be protected by Exemption 6, the agency must balance the privacy interests of the individuals involved against the public interest, if any, that would be served by disclosure. We do not consider that there is a public interest in the disclosure of the requested information sufficient to outweigh the privacy interests of the individuals involved. For the purposes of FOIA Exemption 6, the only public interest to be weighed is the extent to which disclosure would service the "core purpose" of the FOIA, which is to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, or, in other words, to shed light on the conduct of government agencies.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may file an administrative appeal within 90 days of the date of this response letter by writing to the General Counsel U.S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260 or via email at FOIAAppeal@usps.gov.

Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request. The letter of appeal should include, as applicable:

- (1) A copy of the request, of any notification of denial or other action, and of any other related correspondence;
- (2) The FOIA tracking number assigned to the request;
- (3) A statement of the action, or failure to act, from which the appeal is taken;
- (4) A statement identifying the specific redactions to responsive records that the requester is challenging;
- (5) A statement of the relief sought; and
- (6) A statement of the reasons why the requester believes the action or failure to act is erroneous.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact FOIA Public Liaison listed below:

PRIVACY & RECORDS OFFICE US POSTAL SERVICE 475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW RM 1P830 WASHINGTON DC 20260-1101 Phone: (202) 268-2608

Fax: (202) 268-2608

FOIA Public Liaison: Jane Eyre

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at <a href="mailto:ogis@nara.gov">ogis@nara.gov</a>; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Woody

Sr. Govt. Information Specialist

Enclosures